inorganic chemicals. The information that EPA presented in its public notice on this proposal should be of immense assistance to the states.

Many states have used the RMCLs and MCLs as a basis for setting ambient ground water quality standards. However, EPA has adopted RMCLs and MCLs for only a limited number of constituents, including very few organic chemical compounds. The states find themselves having to deal with an increasing number of compounds for which standards have not been developed. Where MCLs and RMCLs are not available, states must develop their own standards based on their own analysis or based on Suggested No Adverse Response Levels (SNARLs), which are guidelines suggested by EPA for a limited number of organic chemicals. Some states, such as New York and New Jersey, have set ambient standards for ground water and standards specifically applicable to drinking water.

Another issue closely related to ground water quality standards is soil quality standards. Water that percolates through contaminated soils can leach contaminants and carry them to ground water. Therefore, the question of what are acceptable levels of contaminants in soil becomes important. None of the programs examined by the committee included specific soil quality standards. However, each of the states and localities indicated that the issue was an important one and was difficult to resolve. The principal difficulty is that the potential impact of soil contaminants on ground water quality is highly site specific. Therefore, uniform standards for soil quality would generally be inappropriate.

Wisconsin

In 1984, Wisconsin enacted a law (Wisconsin Act 410, see Appendix D), that required that each regulatory agency identify all substances already detected in ground water or substances that have a reasonable probability of entering the ground water that result from activities that the agencies regulate. Ground water quality protection standards are then to be developed for each of those substances. In Wisconsin, these standards are based on a "two-tiered" approach; for each substance identified, an "enforcement standard" and a "preventive action limit" (PAL) will be set.

Standards for those substances that are determined to be a public health concern (e.g., certain organic compounds, heavy metals) are to be recommended by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services, while the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will recommend standards for those substances determined to be a public welfare concern (chloride, turbidity, and TDS, for example). Standards for each substance are then adopted by rule by the DNR and apply to all regulated activities and agencies.